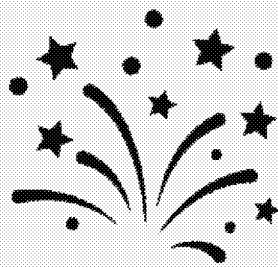
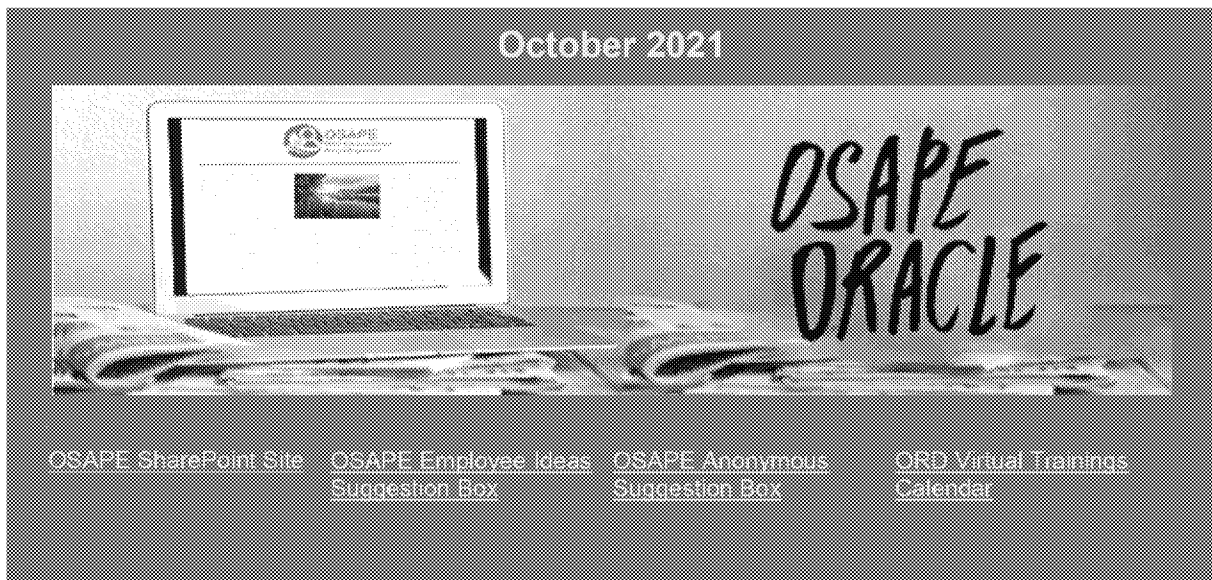


**From:** OSAPENewsletter [OSAPENewsletter@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 10/6/2021 5:30:33 PM  
**To:** ORD-OSAPF Feds and NonFeds [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]; ORD-OSAPF-RSL [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]  
**Subject:** October 2021 OSAPF Oracle



### Celebrations

Celebrating our peer review team!

Let's hear it for our peer review team! Peer review week took place in September and members of our Peer Review team were highlighted in the EPA Research Compass as Faces of ORD (Khin Oo and Aaron Wishnuff), on our website through Researchers at Work profiles (Meta Bonner, Chris Rea, and Ron Josephson). Check them out to learn about the great work that they do.

Way to go, Kyle!

Congratulations to Kyle Spatz for leading his first

## Message from OSAPF Director Mary Ross

Happy Birthday, OSAPF! Happy New Fiscal Year (FY)! As we head into the new FY22, we are now all of two years old. I'm looking forward to a great third year for OSAPF and great FY22. We're getting ready to launch the solicitation for proposals under a new Regional Science Program that is integrating several existing programs that emphasize regional, state, tribal or community science needs. Our Regulatory Support Branch is handling an extraordinary workload of policy or regulatory actions, leading ORD to provide science to inform the decision-making. And that's just two of our many programs; we have exciting new developments across OSAPF that we can highlight in future OSAPF town halls.

On October 1, EPA's Draft FY 2022-2026 EPA Strategic Plan was published for public comment (see email Message from the Administrator at about 3:30 on Oct 1). The plan includes seven goals and four cross-agency strategies. ORD has the lead for cross-agency strategy #1, which is

P3 informational webinar on September 15! Kyle held the informational webinar for the recently opened [19th Annual P3 Awards: A National Student Design Competition Focusing on People, Prosperity and the Planet](#) Request for Applications. Thanks to Ron Josephson, Debbie Jones, Aaron Wishnuff, Angela Page, Meta Bonner, Chris Rea, Paige Brown and Madison Haley for providing information and supporting the webinar. The P3 solicitation will remain open through October 27. The webinar slides and Q&A are posted [here](#).

*Want to thank a coworker who went above and beyond or celebrate a recent success (personal or professional) with your colleagues? Send us your 1-3 sentence submissions and be sure to include Celebration in the subject line. With discretion, submissions will be shared in future monthly newsletters.*

### **Employee Spotlight - Greg Susanke, Risk Assessment Forum**



#### **What does your job entail?**

I like having a variety of projects to work on in OSAPE: Science Coordinator for the Risk Assessment Forum Human Health Oversight Committee, Consolidated Guideline Technical Panel and Dose-Response Technical Panel, Project Officer for an interagency agreement with CDC for them to host EPA human subjects research data in their secure data enclave (allows public access while protecting PII); and agency representative to the Office of Science Technology Policy Interagency Workgroup on Scientific Collections.

aimed at reinforcing science as foundational Agency decision making, including Scientific Integrity. OSAPE has been on point for developing this strategy. We are also leading ORD's effort to develop a long term planning goal focused on EJ for ORD. From a broader perspective, we will have important contributions across the Strategic Plan, including the new goals on EJ and climate changes and the cross-agency strategy on childrens' health.

Speaking of Childrens' Health, did you know that October is National Childrens' Health Month? OSAPE has supported very influential science for EPA's childrens' health program, including a series of Childrens' Health Center [grants](#). Most recently, we solicited applications for grants under the *Cumulative Health Impacts at the Intersection of Climate Change, Environmental Justice, and Vulnerable Populations/Lifestages: Community-Based Research for Solutions Request for Applications (RFA)*.

We have so much to celebrate! As we've said many times, if we were in the office, we'd celebrate our OSAPE birthday, the new FY, and all of your many accomplishments. The work you are all doing is so important for EPA, for ORD, and for the planet – I'm honored to be working with such an impactful organization!

Sincerely,

Mary Ross, OSAPE Director

## **Upcoming Scoop**

### **Important Info on COVID19**

Visit the [COVID19 Intranet Site](#) to stay up-to-date on information and guidance on the impacts of the Coronavirus disease (COVID19). Here you will also find mass mailers and telework resources.

### **New SharePoint Page - OSAPE Engagement in Research Planning**

Check out the new [OSAPE Engagement in Research Planning Page](#) on our [OSAPE SharePoint!](#) This page features everything you need to know about OSAPE's role in ORD's research planning process. From portfolio reviews, to helpful links for ORD's strategic planning process, to who to contact, this page is chock-full of great information!

**What do you enjoy most about your job?**

What I like most about my job is that I get to do a lot of problem solving. I like looking at the big picture and seeing how all the pieces fit together. Or rather, figuring out how to make all the pieces fit together. Making them fit together is often a combination of creativity/finesse and brute force (metaphorically speaking off course).

**How did you get started at EPA?**

I started as a direct hire out of Peace Corps 32 years ago. At that time, EPA was not even on my radar. Since my master's degree is in Wildlife Management/Biology I was trying to get a job with the Fish and Wildlife Service. But timing being everything, an opportunity opened with OPP as a Wildlife Biologist conducting ecological risk assessments. The plan was to stay in D.C. for only a few years, but I ended up meeting my future wife who also worked for EPA. I'm still here and we're still married.

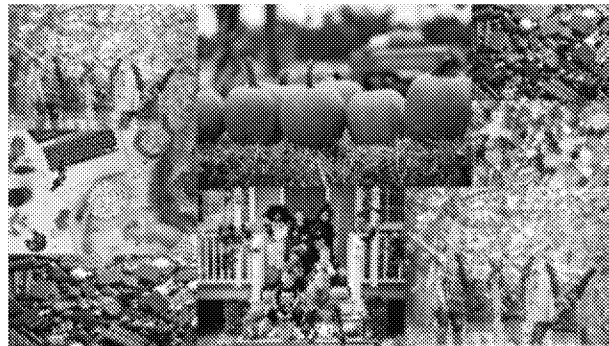
**What is your favorite Halloween costume or memory?**

Last Halloween my family had a costume themed birthday party for my parents. It was a blast seeing four generations in costumes. The picture is of me with my great nephew (I'm the bigger spider).



**And in honor of Greg's October birthday: Who is normally the first person to wish you a Happy Birthday?**

My wife Susan is usually the first person to wish me happy birthday, as soon as I wake up. But last year with my son stationed in Okinawa and being 13 hours ahead, he sent me a text on my



## **OSAPE Fall Favorites**

### *Favorite Scary-Tale Endings*

We asked and you answered! According to OSAPE, the best movies to get you in the spirit of the season are John Wick, Bram Stoker's Dracula, Barb and Star Go to Vista Del Mar, Halloweentown, Halloweentown II: Kalabar's Revenge, Come from Away, Zombieland, It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown, Being There, and of course Hocus Pocus!

### *Oh, My Gourd- Look at Those Pumpkins!*

While there are mixed reviews on where to get the best pumpkins, a few takeaways are you can always count on local pumpkin patches (especially Cox Farms, Family Fresh Farms, and Whitehall Farm), craft stores, local nurseries, and grocery stores (especially Wegmans and Trader Joe's). Just make sure wherever you go you either go by car or close to your home as they are super heavy! And when in doubt, trust the season because at the end of the day, you don't have to search for the perfect pumpkin, the perfect pumpkin will come to you.

### *Scrumptious Spooky Snacks*

A well-known fact about OSAPE is that we are staffed full of chefs! Some ideas to taste the season are good old-fashioned chili, pumpkin pie, pumpkin chocolate chip squares, Philadelphia Jewish Apple Cake, Brandy Alexander Pie, balsamic roasted mushrooms with herby kale, mashed potatoes (a mouthful, but a good one!), or just keep it simple and splash some Bailey's Irish Cream in your coffee on the weekend!

### *Creeping It Real – Costume Edition*

We're a funny bunch and that showed in our costume preferences! Most of our survey participants so far say they opt for something funny over something scary, but something scary over something classic. We also had some suggestions of dressing up as historical figures (which...are maybe technically also ghosts if you think about it) or making your own costume!

birthday his time. So technically, he was the first person.

*Each month we'll feature a short spotlight on a different OSAPE employee. If you'd like to nominate an OSAPE employee to be featured in a future newsletter, [send us an email](#).*

## Birthdays

Happy birthday to [Nikki Bass](#) celebrating 10/19, [Jacquelyn Bell](#) celebrating on 10/12, [Ron Josephson](#) celebrating on 10/11, Greg Susanke celebrating on October 11, and [Dana Williamson](#) celebrating on 10/27.

### Nikki Bass



*In this picture, Nikki is at the 43rd Annual Nanticoke Indian Pow Wow (September 11-12, 2021). She is wearing women's traditional regalia she made over the past 2 years. This style is shared across many of the Coastal Algonquian-speaking tribes indigenous to the East Coast.*

**What's something you want to do that seems impossible? What would you need to change to make it possible in the coming year?**

Family research is my personal passion. As a child, I was close to several of the elders in my family. As an adult, I have used their stories to guide research in libraries and archives throughout the region. Continuing my family research currently 'seems impossible' because I have not been able to visit most of my elders during the pandemic. I hope it will be

## Trick or Treat

While chocolate won by an overwhelming majority over fruity flavors, we also had some honorable mentions of Halloween peanut butter taffy and savory snacks!

## Spookiest Season Favorites

Unsurprisingly, the favorite fall activity was camping! Bonus points if that camping trip also involved roasting s'mores around a campfire. But even if you don't make it out for a full-blown camping trip, you can still enjoy fall by watching the leaves turn, going to a pumpkin patch, consuming anything and everything fall flavored (we're lookin' at you pumpkin spice), apple picking, going for a haunted house or ghost tour, [Punkin Chunkin'](#), or canoeing on the Shenandoah River. As long as you get outside in this glorious weather, you can't go wrong!

*Terrible Tales of Falls Past...We asked for your favorite fall memories and you said...*

- "My cousins forced me to watch 'The Sixth Sense' and I didn't sleep for a good two weeks."  
- Kate Herries
- "No specific memories come to mind, but fall in general gives me a warm, cozy feeling. For me, it is a time of year to celebrate abundance, friends and family, and letting go of things no longer serving us."  
- Demi Gary
- "Getting lost in the corn maze at the pumpkin patch!"  
- Tory Coffin
- "In our home in NJ, raking leaves into piles, lighting and cooking potatoes in the fire; And of course, Thanksgiving with family."  
- Mike Broder
- "When I dressed up last minute in my junior year of high school as Dave the builder (instead of bob) because my mom had a random fluorescent crosswalk vest in our house, and I had knock-off Tim's from Walmart. So, I decided all I needed was a construction hat from Lowe's or Home Depot to complete my "Dave the builder" outfit. People loved the name change from Bob to Dave. For some reason it was hilarious!"  
- Ariana La Grenade-Finch
- "There's not one fall memory that stands out. Fall is my favorite time of year, so I just enjoy it every year. :)"  
- Susan Burden
- "Raking and playing in big leaf piles!"  
- Valerie Blank
- "Playing fall baseball in DCMSBL, enjoying cooler days and crisp fall evenings."  
- Jace Cuje'
- "My Wedding."  
- Ron Josephson

safe to see them again in the coming year.

**Who is normally the first person to wish you a Happy Birthday?**

My mother is always the first person to wish me Happy Birthday.

**Ron Josephson**



**Who is normally the first person to wish you a Happy Birthday?**

My mother is always the first person to wish me Happy Birthday.

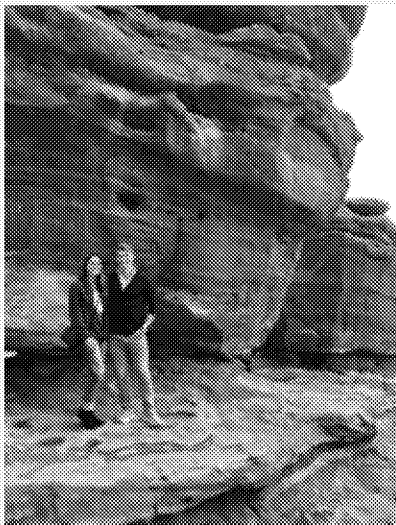
**What's something you want to do that seems impossible? What would you need to change to make it possible in the coming year?**

To fly. All I need to do is throw myself at the ground . . . and miss!

**Who is normally the first person to wish you a Happy Birthday?**

My wife.

**Jacquelyn (Jackie) Bell**



**Who is normally the first person to wish you a Happy Birthday?**

The first person to wish me a happy birthday is usually my boyfriend, Eli, who tells me at midnight each year

You only get one birthday a year. Let your OSAPE colleagues celebrate with

- "My family has an orchard, so in the fall I spent a lot of time picking and washing apples with my brother and sister. I'm sure I complained about it a lot, but it was always fun spending time together!" - Maggie Sauerhage

If you'd like to participate in OSAPE's Fall Favorites Survey, visit the form and submit your response before October 26 to have your favorites included in our presentation at the October 27 OSAPE All Hands!

### **ELMS Spotlight: BOSC – Process Improvement**

When the Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) Payroll ELMS board was initially deployed, the processing time from timesheet submission to payment was approximately 39 days. The BOSC ELMS process "one thing to get better at goal" was to decrease the payroll processing time down to 30 days. The processing time has now decreased to a current processing time of 20 days. The BOSC team held a kaizen event in the beginning stages of this ELMS process which was vital in identifying sticking points and creating a plan to create an effective flow and performance board which subsequently lead to significant success.

Congratulations to the BOSC team on their successful and continued process improvement!

For questions regarding the SBIR ELMS processes please reach out to BOSC ELMS process owner Tom Tracy.

If you have not taken an ELMS training, feel free to sign up to attend a virtual training on the ORD@Work website here: ELMS Training page.

## **News From Around the Office**

### **Updates from the Research Grants World**

- On September 20, EPA awarded \$965,395 in funding to one recipient under the Deployment of Innovative Water Technologies for Very Small Drinking Water Systems, Areas Served by Private Wells and Source Waters RFA. For more information see the press release and project abstract.
- On September 28, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced awards under the National Priorities: Evaluation of Pollutants in Biosolids RFA. EPA granted \$5,976,976 in funding to four institutions for research to support states, municipalities, and utilities in determining the potential risks to human health and the

you by sharing your birthday with us via [this form](#). We'll share a list of each month's OSAPE birthdays in future newsletters.

environment from pollutants found in biosolids – treated sewage sludge. Results from this research may inform the development of standards and policies for biosolids management.

- On September 16, the [Cumulative Health Impacts at the Intersection of Climate Change, Environmental Justice, and Vulnerable Populations/Lifestages: Community-Based Research for Solutions Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#) opened for applications and will remain open through November 16. EPA is seeking applications proposing transdisciplinary research to analyze environmental problems at the intersection of climate change, environmental justice and vulnerable populations and lifestages. An informational webinar about the RFA is scheduled to take place on October 5 at 1 pm EDT. You can register for the webinar [here](#).

- On October 7, Angela Page will host a meeting to discuss research projects submitted to the [17th Annual P3 Awards: A National Student Design Competition Focusing on People, Prosperity and the Planet Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#). During the meeting, EPA reviewers will discuss the relevancy of the proposed research to EPA's mission and priorities.

- On October 18, Serena Chung, will host a meeting to discuss research projects submitted to the [Measurement and Monitoring Methods for Air Toxics and Contaminants of Emerging Concern in the Atmosphere Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#). During the meeting, EPA reviewers will discuss the relevancy of the proposed research to EPA's mission and priorities.

#### **FY2019 Scientific Integrity Annual Report Posted**

The Fiscal Year 2019 Scientific Integrity Annual Report is now available! Highlights of the report include: the introduction of the EPA National Honor Award for Scientific Integrity; management dialogues on scientific integrity; finalized language for future Agency grants and contracts to ensure compliance with the Scientific Integrity Policy; and deployment of training specifically geared towards managers and supervisors. The report also summarizes the Scientific Integrity Official's continued work with employees who had scientific integrity questions or concerns, and the Program's ongoing work on developing new guidance and policies.

#### **Make Your Citizen Science Project Count: Strategies to Produce Quality Data Webinar**

OSAP's citizen science team recently worked with the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) to develop a series of videos and guides on

using EPA's Handbook for Citizen Science Quality Assurance and Documentation. Check out EPA's Quality Assurance toolkit [here](#)! On September 14-15, EPA, APHL, and Citizen Science Association hosted a webinar on how citizen science groups have successfully integrated quality assurance approaches into their projects to help answer their community's environmental and public health questions. With Nora Conlon (EPA R1 Chemist) as the moderator, speakers included Jill Car (Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Partnership), Brian Magi (Atmospheric Sciences at UNC Charlotte & CleanAIRE NC), Sergio S. Ruiz-Cordova (Alabama Water Watch), and Dirk Felton (NY Department of Environmental Conservation).

#### **MOA Signed for Sea Grant Water Community Science Project**

EPA recently signed a MOA between EPA, USGS and NOAA to improve community science for protection of water resources. This agreement formalizes an operational relationship where the Agencies will work together to support a project funded by [NOAA's Sea Grant program](#) that will establish a national Community Science Liaison position with responsibilities to develop and share best practices through guidance documents and training sessions for community science leaders. The liaison will bridge work across and within the agencies to enhance diversity of participation in community science, perform an agency asset audit, and work toward greater data acceptance and extending community science data usage to address water resources- related environmental challenges.

#### **Joint EMEP Steering Body and WGE Meeting**

From September 13-17, Terry Keating (OSAP/PB) participated in the Joint European Monitoring Evaluation Program (EMEP) and the Working Group on Effects (WGE) annual meeting of the scientific bodies under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP). Terry was a co-chair of the Task Force on Hemispheric Transport of Air Pollution (TF HTAP), discussing the progress of work under TF HTAP and plans for the 2022-2023 work plan. In addition to supporting EPA and US involvement in the LRTAP Convention, the work of TF HTAP contributes ACE Research Area 1 in the current StRAP (or 3 in the proposed StRAP).

#### **Tribal Listening Sessions on Cumulative Impacts**

On September 16 and 23, ORD hosted Tribal Listening Sessions on Cumulative Impacts. The purpose of these sessions was to give Tribes the opportunity to convey concerns and research interests early in EPA's research planning process.



Addressing cumulative impacts includes research that considers and accounts for how persistent poverty, inequality, and stressors from the built, social, and natural environment affect exposure and response to environmental pollutants.

#### **Meetings to Support StRAP Development**

ORD's National Research Programs have started meeting with tribal partnership groups to support development of our Strategic Research Action Plans (StRAPs) for FY23-26 and to build and maintain long-term relationships between the National Program Directors and our tribal partners. Input from tribes (and states separately) during this Partner Engagement and Problem Formulation stage is critical to ensuring our research program outputs and products can meet the needs of our co-regulators. On September 15, representatives from ORD's Chemical Safety for Sustainability and (CSS) and Health and Environmental Risk Assessment (HERA) Research Programs met separately with the Tribal Pesticide Program Council (TPPC), sponsored by the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OSCPP), to hold research scoping discussions. CSS and HERA provided an overview of their work, highlighting cross-cutting research topics, and inviting feedback from the TPPC on the proposed Research Areas and tribal science needs to inform StRAP development.

#### **Small Business Innovation Research Program Updates**

- On September 22, the Small Business Innovation Research team hosted a webinar highlighting Phase I SBIR company Verdant Structural Engineers. During this webinar, Verdant presented on their [Phase I SBIR project](#) findings of carbon-storing, straw structurally insulated panels and discuss their potential impact on the domestic building industry. The event was moderated by April Richards (OSAP/PB) and Timonie Hood (R9). Find more information [here](#).
- On September 22, April Richards, EPA SBIR Program Manager, participated in the NC SBIR Celebration Summit hosted by North Carolina's First Flight Venture Center. April served as a panelist alongside other SBIR Program Managers to discuss how to navigate federal SBIR funding opportunities and provide insights on the program. Find more information [here](#).
- On September 28, the EPA SBIR team participated in UC Riverside's 3rd Annual SBIR/STTR CON. This virtual event connected small business entrepreneurs with Federal SBIR program experts. The SBIR team presented an



overview of EPA's SBIR program, held a Q&A and participated in one-on-one meetings with potential applicants. Read more about this event [here](#).

#### **Campus RainWorks Science Matters Article**

OSAP's Challenges and Prizes team is excited to share a [new Science Matters article](#) celebrating the 10th anniversary of the

Campus RainWorks Challenge.

Campus RainWorks, a green infrastructure design competition open to U.S. college and university students, has engaged more than 700 teams from 272 academic institutions across 48 states and Puerto Rico. This competition is one example of how EPA is harnessing the ingenuity and creativity of the public through competitions to stimulate creative thinking and encourage public participation in EPA's core mission of protecting human health and the environment. OSAP's Innovation Team coordinates the Agency's Challenge and Prize program and provides support to EPA programs interested in using this mechanism to engage the public.

## **Environmental Justice and Diversity and Inclusion**

#### **ORD EJ Council Sponsored Webinar Series: Applying an EJ Lens to Research**

The next ORD EJ Council-sponsored webinar, titled "*Transformational or Transactional: Advancing Equity and Justice in Government-initiated Research*," is tentatively scheduled to take place on October 28 from 1 PM – 2:30 p.m. ET with a presentation on by Dr. Jalonnie L. White-Newsome. Dr. White-Newsome is currently the CEO/Founder of Empowering a Green Environment and Economy, LLC and Professorial Lecturer in Environmental and Occupational Health at the George Washington University.

This webinar is part of the ORD EJ Council sponsored internal ORD Research webinar series, "Applying an EJ Lens to Research". The series aims to highlight EPA research that addresses environmental justice concerns, bring awareness to ORD on Agency and community high-priority EJ science needs through Agency-wide dialogue, provide a forum for Agency-wide discussion of EJ related work, increase awareness of the intersection of research and EJ, provide opportunities to build collaborations, and actively engage participants and seek feedback to help inform presenters.

For more information on the "Applying an EJ Lens to Research" webinar series' upcoming October

webinar, past webinar recordings, and the ORD EJ Council, visit the [Environmental Justice Intranet page](#).

## **Program Feature: ORD Assists and Tech Tracker**

Every day, ORD scientists provide critical technical assistance to our partners within EPA and outside of the Agency. Through these efforts, we provide the best available environmental science and technology to inform and support human health and environmental decision-making at all levels.

Since October 2017, ORD has been capturing much of its technical support activities through [TechTracker](#), an online tool to record individual contributions by ORD federal staff in their capacity as subject matter experts to ORD partners and stakeholders on matters not described in ORD research action plans (RAPs). Since that time, ORD federal staff have created more than 8,500 entries in TechTracker and recorded 150,000+ hours of technical support provided to ORD's partners and stakeholders.

Through the efforts of OSAPE (formerly OSP) and ORD's Program Support Coordinators, TechTracker has highlighted the significant level of scientific and technical support ORD provides every year. TechTracker has also highlighted the complexity of ORD's scientific and technical support efforts and the need for ORD to better manage and track requests for technical and scientific support and the support provided by our scientists.

**With the change in the fiscal year, we're saying goodbye to TechTracker and hello to [ORD Assists](#).** ORD Assists builds on the success of TechTracker and allows ORD to implement an improved and better-defined process for managing and tracking scientific and technical support requests. This new process was developed by a team of representatives from across ORD during a Kaizen Event in the summer of 2020, and it streamlines technical support tracking for many requests and includes a triage step to increase awareness of more complex and/or high-profile scientific and technical support efforts.

CESER's Technical Support Coordination Division is responsible for implementing ORD Assists across ORD, with support from a core group of ORD staff across ORD's research centers and OSAPE. In OSAPE, the key points of contact for ORD Assists are Susan Burden and Valerie Blank.

TechTracker will continue to be available through the first quarter of FY22 to ensure that all FY21 technical supports efforts have been captured. TechTracker will not be accessible after December 31, 2021, and there are currently no plans to migrate TechTracker data to ORD Assists.

A big thank you to Walter Cybulski for leading TechTracker for the past several years!

## OSAPE Coming and Goings



### Welcome!

Welcome to OSAPE, **Cassidy Pham**! Cassidy is a student services contractor working in the OSAPE IO on communications. She's from Howard County, Maryland, and graduated magna cum laude from the University of Maryland this year with a degree in Public Health Science and had an internship with the communications team at the de Beaumont Foundation. In her free time, she has been helping coach her high school girls' soccer team and will be moving to the D.C. area in the next month. Cassidy likes snowboarding (as you can tell from the pic), as well as playing soccer, traveling, and trying new foods.

### Welcome Back!

Welcome back to **Carolina Penalva-Arana**! Carolina has returned from a detail and is back in the role of Science Advisory Branch Chief. Many

thanks to Cheryl Hawkins for filling in as acting branch chief over the past few months.

Thank You!

Thanks to **Tim Benner** for serving as acting branch chief for the Regulatory Support Branch! Tim's detail ended in September and Maria Doa is currently covering the role of acting **branch** chief.

Farewell!!

Congratulations and farewell to **Maria Doa**! Maria will be leaving EPA at the end of this month to begin a position as Senior Director of Chemical Policy at the Environmental Defense Fund. We will miss Maria and her leadership and wish her the best of luck with this new journey!

*The Office of Science Advisor, Policy and Engagement (OSAPE) supports the Agency's Science Advisor and integrates and coordinates science across the Office of Research and Development and the Agency, with key external partners, and into the regulatory process. OSAPE is a part of EPA's Office of Research and Development. Have ideas for the OSAPE monthly newsletter? Send your ideas to [OSAPENewsletter@epa.gov](mailto:OSAPENewsletter@epa.gov).*

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**GOVDELIVERY**